

April 24, 2024
Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District convened in regular session on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the San Benito County Water District office at 30 Mansfield Road, Hollister, California. Members present were: President Andrew Shelton, Vice President Doug Williams and Directors Sonny Flores, Joe Tonascia and Mark Wright. Also present were Interim General Manager Jeff Cattaneo, District Counsel Jeremy T. Liem, Manager of Administration, Finance and Business Services Megan Holland, Senior Engineer David Macdonald, Water Resources Technician II Dustin Franco, Water Programmer III Anne Stull, Office Specialist I Jennifer Cosio Arellano and Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Barbara Mauro.

CALL TO ORDER

President Shelton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

President Shelton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Roll Call

Mrs. Mauro called roll; members present were: President Shelton, Vice President Williams and Directors Flores, Tonascia and Wright.

c. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes to address the Board; rebuttal will be limited to 3 minutes; no new business agenda items will be heard after 8:00 p.m.

d. Approval of Agenda

There were two items that came up after the posting of the agenda that need to be added. Mrs. Mauro stated that under Government Code 54952.(b)(2) the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on a posted agenda by a two-thirds vote of the members if there is a need to take immediate action and it can't wait for the next subsequent agenda. Mrs. Mauro stated the two items are: 1. Approving a Resolution regarding the Interim Manager's Authority to Approve Water Transfers and Execute Documents on behalf of the District and Conduct Banking Transactions and 2. Approving a Resolution for Authorizing Investment of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund. With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Williams, the Board of Directors approved the additional items to be added to the agenda by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

The Agenda was then considered with a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Flores, the Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

e. Public Input: Members of the Public are Invited to Speak on any Matter not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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| 1. | Approval of Minutes for: | March 27, 2024 | Regular Meeting |
| | | April 4, 2024 | Special Meeting |
| | | April 12, 2024 | Special Meeting |
| 2. | Allowance of Claims | | |
| 3. | Acknowledgement of Paid Claims prior to the April Board Meeting | | |
| 4. | Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report, March 31, 2024 | | |
| 5. | On Call Contracts – Status Updates | | |

With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Director Williams, the Consent Agenda was approved by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. **Consider Resolution to Determine Consistency and Adoption of Findings of the 2014 Final Environmental Impact Report for the West Hills Water Treatment Plant Interim Expansion**

Mr. Cattaneo asked for an explanation of this item from HDR. Holly Kennedy, from HDR, explained that the design of the West Hills Water Treatment Plant in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), (completed in 2014) had always meant to be expanded. Within the California Code 15162, nothing is new or changed, so no new CEQA is required, therefore a Notice of Determination can be filed using the original project filing.

With a motion by Director Flores and a second by Director Williams, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2024-12, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District for the Consistency Determination and Adoption of Findings Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162* by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

7. **Public Hearing regarding San Benito County Water District’s Intention to undertake a Project— Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**

- a. **Proof of Publication submitted for Notice of Public Hearing**

Mrs. Mauro verified the proof of publication.

- b. **Presentation of the Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**

Mr. Cattaneo stated the expansion of the West Hills Water Treatment Plant is the only part the Board will be considering at this meeting. The part two of this project will be the injection wells and the pipeline. Mr. Cattaneo further stated the reasoning for fast-tracking the project was the deadline for the State grant funding which is May 2026. Ms. Kennedy gave a PowerPoint presentation on the previously approved 2023 Master Plan. She reviewed the additional water supply needed for new growth as well as additional water supply needed for existing customers during drought conditions. Ms. Kennedy further reviewed the grant funding the District has received so far from the State of California Department of Water Resources for the Integrated Regional Water Management and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Round 2 as well as the Federal Small Surface Groundwater Storage Program. Ms. Kennedy reported, so far the District has received approximately \$20 million in grant funding, which would then mean about \$20 million would be needed from the District.

This would be a two-step approach, with the first step being the expansion of the West Hills treatment plant and step two being the wells and pipelines. Ms. Kennedy reviewed the components of the expansion of the plant.

- c. Questions of Directors**
There were no questions from the Directors.
- d. Open Public Hearing**
President Shelton opened the Public Hearing.
- e. Close Public Hearing or continue to later date**
With no questions from the public, President Shelton closed the Public Hearing.
- f. Consider Approval of Resolution--Approve a Project Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)**
With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Flores, the Board of Directors Approved Resolution #2024-13, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District To Approve a Project Accelerated Drought Response Project (ADRoP)* with 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.
- 8. Consider Resolution Declaring May as Water Awareness Month**
Ms. Holland reviewed the reason for Water Awareness Month and that it coincides with the start of irrigation season each year. With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Wright the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2024-13, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Declaring May as Water Awareness Month* with 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.
- 9. Consider Resolution Restating the District's Investment Policy**
Ms. Holland reported the Investment Committee met and with the exception of making the change from District Manager to General Manager, made no changes to the policy.

With a motion by Director Wright and a second by Vice President Flores, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2024-15, *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Restating the District's Investment Policy* with 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.
- 10. Consider Appointment of District Engineer, Jeff Cattaneo**
Mr. Cattaneo reported the District Act requires the District to have a District Engineer and without the General Manager/District Engineer, there isn't one at this time. He suggests appointing the Interim GM as the District Engineer and this can be changed if there are personnel changes. With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Wright, the Board of Directors appointed Jeff Cattaneo as District Engineer with 5 affirmative 5 votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.
- 11. Consider Resolution regarding the Interim General Manager/General Manager's Authority to Approve Water Transfers and Execute Documents on behalf of said District and to Conduct Banking Transactions**

Ms. Holland read the resolution into the record and stated this is to allow for the execution of all District documents and banking transactions by the Interim General Manager. With a motion by Director Tonascia and a second by Vice President Flores, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2024-16 *A Resolution of the Board of Directors regarding the Interim General Manager/General Manager's Authority to Approve Water Transfers and Execute Documents on behalf of said District and Conduct Banking Transactions* with 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

12. **Consider Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund**

Ms. Holland stated this resolution grants the Interim General Manager and the Manager of Administration, Finance and Business Services authority to make L.A.I.F. Transfers on behalf of the District. With a motion by Director Williams and a second by Director Tonascia, the Board of Directors approved Resolution #2024-17 *A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Benito County Water District Authorizing the Investment of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund* by 5 affirmative votes, Shelton, Flores, Tonascia, Williams and Wright.

13. **Committee/Agency Representative Reports:**

a. San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Tonascia)

As per Director Tonascia, the USBR Commissioner Camille Touton, attended the meeting and congratulated our District on receiving the federal grant.

b. Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (Flores/Wright)

As per Director Flores, the Audit was reviewed and the Army Corps of Engineers discussed the 3 breaks that had been repaired and the receipt of approximately \$200 million in federal funds.

c. Water Resources Association (Flores/Shelton)

As per Director Flores, general business was discussed.

d. Investment Committee (Flores/Williams)

As per Director Williams, the committee discussed maturing notes and the investment policy.

14. **OPEN SESSION**

15. **CLOSED SESSION:**

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Title: General Manager, Deputy District Engineer, Water Conservation Manager, Electrician

Authority: Government Code § 54957

(The Board convened in Closed Session at 5:39 p.m.)

16. **OPEN SESSION**
Report action, if any from Closed Session
(The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:15)

President Shelton stated there was no action to report from Closed Session.

17. **Adjournment**
With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the May 29, 2024 Board meeting and signed by the presiding Board member.

/s/Doug Williams
Doug Williams, Vice President

/s/Barbara L. Mauro
Barbara L. Mauro, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk